

HOUSE RESOLUTION 296

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Tommy Jones for his outstanding service to Trousdale County and to the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly takes great pride in recognizing those individuals who serve as exemplary public servants and community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such highly respected and deeply admired individual is Mr. Tommy Jones of Hartsville, a former Sheriff of Trousdale County; and

WHEREAS, a native Tennessean, born in Macon County, Tommy Jones and his wife of 69 years, Erline, proudly call Hartsville and Trousdale County home; and

WHEREAS, this outstanding couple were brought together by their love of music; Tommy played guitar and Erline played the mandolin, and met while their brothers played together in a band; and

WHEREAS, married at age 17, Tommy Jones and his young bride moved to Memphis, where he attended a trade school to retread tires before joining the Air Force to proudly serve his country during World War II; and

WHEREAS, serving overseas in Italy as a radar mechanic, Mr. Jones returned from duty in 1947, at which time he and his wife settled permanently in Hartsville, where he opened an appliance shop; and

WHEREAS, becoming an active member of his community, Tommy Jones led the effort to establish a veterans' memorial in Hartsville, which is now on display across from the Trousdale County Courthouse next to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall; and

WHEREAS, elected Sheriff of Trousdale County in 1962, Mr. Jones was commonly known as "The Singing Sheriff" because of his many free performances at schools and

community centers with his bluegrass band, "The Blue Sky Boys," and their radio appearances on the local radio station in Carthage; and

WHEREAS, in the tradition of Tennessee county sheriffs, Erline and Tommy Jones lived at the jail during his term of office, where she served as cook, jailer, and radio operator before "getting out of jail" and moving to their present home on Driver's Circle; and

WHEREAS, during his years of public service to Trousdale County, Mr. Jones has served as both a county commissioner and tax assessor in addition to his service as sheriff; and

WHEREAS, respected for his wisdom and experience, Tommy Jones is a 50-year member of the Lion's Club and the Masonic Lodge, as well as a longtime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, where he regularly enjoys the fellowship at the VFW Hall in Hartsville; and

WHEREAS, Trousdale County has announced that March 7, 2004, will be "Tommy Jones Appreciation Day" in recognition of his many contributions over the years to the citizens of Trousdale County and it is especially appropriate that we recognize such a beloved citizen; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend Tommy Jones for his exemplary service to his community and the State of Tennessee and extend our best wishes to him as we join with the citizens of Trousdale County as they celebrate "Tommy Jones Appreciation Day."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.